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***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****

BODY

SUBJECT: EAST ASIA BRIEF [REDACTED] FOR 14 MAY 1990.

FROM: DDI/O [REDACTED]

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1. PHILIPPINES: ANOTHER ATTACK ON US PERSONNEL

TWO US AIR FORCE ENLISTED MEN--BOTH IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES--WERE MURDERED LAST NIGHT AS THEY STEPPED FROM THEIR HOTEL NEAR CLARK AIR BASE. BOTH WERE SHOT IN THE FACE WITH A .45 CALIBER PISTOL. A THIRD SOLDIER ESCAPED UNHURT. THE US EMBASSY IN MANILA HAS ASKED US CITIZENS TO LIMIT THEIR MOVEMENTS, US SERVICEMEN HAVE BEEN RESTRICTED TO QUARTERS.

COMMENT: ALTHOUGH NO GROUP HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY, THE COMMUNIST NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY (NPA) HAD PLEDGED TO DISRUPT THE BASES NEGOTIATIONS EXPLORATORY TALKS BEGINNING TODAY AND ALMOST CERTAINLY CARRIED OUT THE ATTACKS. FURTHER INCIDENTS ARE LIKELY. THE COMMUNISTS WOULD PREFER TO ASSASSINATE HIGH-RANKING US DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY PERSONNEL BUT HAVE BEEN FRUSTRATED BY TOUGH SECURITY. THEY ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON EASIER TARGETS, SUCH AS ENLISTED MEN. ILL-DISCIPLINED NPA CADRES--UNDER PRESSURE FROM SENIOR OFFICIALS TO CARRY OUT ATTACKS--MAY CHOOSE TO KILL PRIVATE US CITIZENS.

RECENT LETHAL ATTACKS ON US CITIZENS IN PHILIPPINES

OCTOBER 1987--NPA MEMBERS ASSASSINATE TWO US AIRMEN AND A RETIRED US AIRMAN IN SEPARATE ATTACKS; US AIR FORCE OFFICER ESCAPES ANOTHER ATTACK UNINJURED.

APRIL 1989--US ARMY COL. JAMES ROWE, ASSIGNED TO THE JOINT MILITARY ADVISORY GROUP, IS SLAIN BY NPA EN ROUTE TO HIS OFFICE IN MANILA.

SEPTEMBER--NPA AMBUSHES AND KILLS TWO US DEFENSE DEPARTMENT CONTRACT PERSONNEL IN THEIR VEHICLE NORTH OF CLARK AIR BASE--ATTACK APPARENTLY TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH ARRIVAL OF VICE PRESIDENT QUAYLE IN MANILA.

FEBRUARY 1990--NPA KILLS US GEOLOGIST AND HIS FILIPINO WIFE AND FATHER-IN-LAW IN BOHOL. NPA PROBABLY WAS TARGETING THE FATHER-IN-LAW FOR NOT PAYING REVOLUTIONARY TAXES.

MARCH--US RANCHER IN CENTRAL PHILIPPINES IS SLAIN BY NPA FOR REFUSING TO PAY TAXES TO COMMUNISTS.

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MAY--ON 4 MAY A US MARINE CORPS SERGEANT IS SLAIN IN OLONGAOP CITY;
NPA HAS NOT CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY. [REDACTED]

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Exemptions: NOT RELEVANT